

Dear Senator McEwen

Please accept this submission to the enquiry into the Great Barrier Reef Marine park & other legislation amendments bill 2008.

My name is Neil Dunstan and I live at Sarina Beach near Mackay Qld. I am now retired and my most abiding hobbies in retirement are fishing and boating which has been a lifelong passion.

My argument against the amendment 9 subsection 3 (1) is as follows. GBRMPA has proven in the past that they are not to be trusted do not consider any outside submissions regarding the draconian rules that they are pushing for. I was a member of the Mackay Game fishing club, a totally non take organisation during the original so-called public consultation period and entered two submissions. We were asked to advise them of our best fishing area's so that they would not take away too much of them and the result was that everything we advised them became a no go area. As a bit of a test we also added some area's which were basically marine deserts and these also became restricted area's. The proposed 25 % restricted area's (which became 33%) were put up before the public discussion and after all the talks the gazetted area's were identical to their original proposals ie they totally ignored all submissions. Their scientific research to support their claims is non existent and in our area one of the only two safe anchorages for 100 klm's was put off limits. Their estimate of the compensatable damage they would do was in the order of 2-3 million dollars and it is now more than 100 million dollars and still counting.

My experience with the public consultation meetings was so bad that I refused to go again. I brought up a couple of items which they didn't like and was told to sit down and be quiet by the moderator and then totally ignored. It seems to me that the only people who have any influence are the WWF and they want all fishing banned completely.

In closing I suggest that GBRMPA has become a huge organisation that want their own unrestricted power and to be unquestioned. They seem hell bent on destroying the recreational and professional fishing industries and all the jobs and businesses that rely on them, not to mention my retirement past time. This is the greatest example of public service empire building by a group of largely unqualified individuals that I can recall in all my seventy years.

Neil Dunstan.
Sarina Beach.